



## Revolution and Evolution in the Department of Surgery

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The millennium brought with it many seminal developments in the dominion of Surgery. Emblematic of this renaissance are the ascension of Minimally Invasive (laparoscopic or "key hole") Surgery to the forefront, the application of molecular biologic technology to enhance our understanding of disease pathogenesis, radioguided and image-directed surgery, robotics, simulation technology as a necessary adjunct for education and training, and telemedicine. JABSOM's Department of Surgery has been actively engaged in faculty recruitment, development of clinical and basic science research, initiation of a faculty practice group as part of a global venture, and a collaborative partnership with Medical Centers and local Medical Societies. These activities are in pursuit of building upon the Department's teaching, research, and service missions that will impact on improving health care delivery for communities in Hawaii and, by extension, to the Pacific Basin.

There are 48 regular faculty in the Department. All are American Board of Surgery certified. Seven members are "double" Boarded. The Department's first Basic Scientist was recruited 2 years ago. A total of 8 new faculty have been recruited since 2001. Faculty provide expertise in General, and Minimally Invasive Surgery, Colon and Rectal Surgery, Endocrine and Breast Surgery, Surgical Critical Care, Trauma, Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Surgical Oncology, Pediatric Surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Otolaryngology, and Urologic Surgery.

Surgical education is an integral part of the Department's mission. The Department continues to attract the best and brightest from a diverse group of outstanding applicants for training in the three Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) fully accredited Programs: General Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, and Surgical Critical Care. It is noteworthy that the Surgical Critical Care Fellowship received a "commendation" designation (reserved for only a rare number of Programs reviewed annually) from the ACGME in recognition of its outstanding educational merits. Annually, the General Surgery Residency graduates 3 Chief Residents; the Orthopedic Residency graduates 2 Chief Residents; and the Surgical Critical Care Fellowship graduates one Fellow. Over two-thirds of the graduates from our General Surgery Residency and nearly all of the graduates from the Orthopedic Residency seek and successfully compete for additional fellowship training. Graduates from the residency programs had more than 30 regional or national research presentations or manuscripts between 2001 and 2005. Since 2002, the "first time pass rate" for Board certification is nearing 100% for the General Surgery graduates. It is at a 100% rate for the Orthopedic graduates. Graduates have been successful in prominent academic medical centers, as well as in community

practice. Many hold key leadership positions in their Institutions. Approximately 50% of the graduates return to practice in Hawaii.

Faculty members are involved actively in research. One has an NIH RO1. Since 2001 3 NIH grant proposals have been submitted with one to the CDC. Faculty also serve as local Principal Investigators for multicenter trials, under the auspices of the National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project (NSABP), as well as under the oversight of pharmaceutical sponsors. In addition, there are 3 patent applications in progress. Since 2001, the Department has sponsored faculty development opportunities to assist faculty in achieving their personal and professional goals. Notable examples are the Association for Surgical Education Surgical Education Research Fellowship, the Harvard School of Public Health Program for Executive Leadership Development, the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Professionalism and Interpersonal Communication Skills Development Course, the ACS Young Investigators Course in Clinical Trial Development, and an NIH-funded, Masters of Science in Clinical Research offered in JABSOM.

Providing of leadership initiatives are integral to Faculty time commitment. Faculty serve locally as Chiefs of Surgery at two Medical Centers. Three have been elected to multiple terms as Chiefs of Staff at three Institutions, and four hold Medical Directorships in Minimally Invasive Surgery and Comprehensive Weight Management Programs, Surgical Critical Care, Trauma Services, and Operating Rooms. Nationally, Faculty members hold vital positions in organizations, which include the ACS, the National Ultrasound Faculty, the Committee on Trauma and the Commission on Cancer; the ACGME Transitional Residency Review Committee; and elected positions in esteemed Surgical Societies such as past-President of the Pacific Coast Surgical Association and Secretary-elect of the Southwestern Surgical Congress.

From a humanistic standpoint, Faculty donate their expertise and time by traveling to developing countries to provide charitable care as part of the Aloha Medical Mission, and a cadre is active in providing continuing medical education programs and serving on advisory boards for Community-based programs.

A number of firsts have been initiated by Faculty:

- 1) The Transplantation Faculty established the only accredited Solid Organ Transplant Program in the Pacific Basin and are part of a multidisciplinary Liver Disease Center located on the campus of St. Francis Medical Center.
- 2) A memorandum of agreement has been negotiated with The Queen's Medical Center to manage the only Trauma

Program in the State of Hawaii and the Pacific Basin. This joint venture will enhance the quality of patient care and further support the development of a preeminent clinical research program in Trauma. These activities will provide, ultimately, additional opportunities to build upon the strong postgraduate educational programs.

- 3) The Department has embarked on the development of a Center of Excellence in Minimally Invasive Surgery in partnership with The Queen's Medical Center. A nationally recognized leader was recruited to launch this initiative. In addition, The Comprehensive Weight Management/Bariatric Surgery Center, has been developed under this initiative. In parallel, an innovative, virtual reality simulation and training center for medical students, residents in training, and our community physicians is being developed to foster skill development.

The future is bright, and the time ripe for innovation as the Department moves forward in setting the cornerstones for a solid foundation. In progress is the emergence of a core Faculty Practice Group; the infrastructure to support clinical research is sprouting; the development of a surgical education initiative is being nurtured with active recruitment ongoing; and, redefining and refining the structure and approach to postgraduate education. In addition, strategic planning for a rural surgery initiative is being contemplated. Finally, programmatic development continues to march forward towards the development of Centers of Excellence and Fellowship Programs in Minimally Invasive Surgery, Bariatric Surgery, and Trauma and Acute Care Surgery.

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